ഡപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡണ്ട് : മിസ്റ്റർ കുഞ്ഞിരാമമേനോൻ മെമ്പറായുള്ള കമ്മിറ്റിയുടെ ഫങ്ഷൻതന്നെ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലെന്നു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എം. പോൾ : ഇപ്പോൾ അഡൈസറി കമ്മിറ്റി ഫങ്ഷൻ ചെയ്യാനായിട്ടാണ് ഇൻസ്ട്രക്ഷൻസ് കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. ഈച്ചരമേനോൻ : ചില ദിക്കുകളിൽ കമ്മിറ്റി ഫങ്ഷൻ ചെയ്യിട്ടുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴത്തച്ഛൻ : എനിക്കു ചില വിവരങ്ങളം ചോദിച്ചറിയുവാനുണ്ട്. കമ്മിറ്റി കൂടാഞ്ഞതു രൂപകളും മറ്റു സംഗതികളും ഉണ്ടാകാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണെന്നു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാണ് ഈ കമ്മിറ്റി കാൺസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട് ചെയ്തതു് എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എം. പോൾ : മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റിയിൽപെട്ടതു തുടങ്ങീട്ട് ഒന്നര മാസവും മറ്റതു മൂന്നു മാസത്തിനു മേലുമായിട്ടുണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴത്തച്ഛൻ : ഏതായാലും ഒരു കാര്യം ഇതിൽനിന്നു മനസ്സിലായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു കമ്മിറ്റിയെ ഏല്പിട്ടത്തീട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും അതിന്റെ പ്രവത്തനപദ്ധതി നടപ്പിലാക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഇതുയും ചുമതലാബോധമുള്ള, ന്യായം, ന്യായം, വ്യായം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെപ്പറ്റി കൊച്ചീരാജ്യക്കാർ എങ്ങിനെ വിചാരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* These fair price shops are as a matter of fact appointments made by the Food Department, and the activities of the Department grew. It was not something that was copied from outside. According to our needs and circumstances, the department had to grow. There were no fair price shops at all at one time. There was no Grain Purchasing Scheme. There was no tapioca control. There was no ration order and there was no ration. All these things grew from day to day and the acute necessities of the department also. When we first constituted the fair price shops the intention mostly was that these shops will work more or less as an institution to level prices. That was the one intention with which the fair price shops were started. Side by side with that, they also grew into small Government depots, and when they grew into such small depots, Government thought that it would be advisable to constitute a small committee,a board of members, who can visit these shops and see if they are working properly and if they are not working properly to record their remarks in books. It was at that stage that committees were constituted, and when committees were constituted at that stage, there was no need for any elaborate rules. That is why these committees were constituted without rules. It was later on that an elaborate ration order was issued. It was later on that these fair price shops were opened all on a sudden. They started at one end and spread from there slowly within 2 months through the whole State. Later on this rationing scheme came in. When they came in, there were certain representations that on a wider scale these committees should be constituted. The rules are being prepared. This happened simply because the department and its activities had to grow from day to day. It is not such a department for which rules have to be copied. Further, we have to follow along the lines obtaining in the adjacent territory. Therefore, this is a case where we cannot frame rules all on a sudden. Now, after the discussions, we will consider the position more elaborately and we will fix the terms in such a way that the Government should get all possible help from non-official sources in every village *(hear hear)*

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കുമാരനെഴത്തച്ഛൻ: More elaborately എന്നുള്ളതു് More quickly എന്നാക്കിയാൽ കൊള്ളാമായിരുന്നു.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* More elaborately and more quickly.

Motion by leave withdrawn

CUT MOTION No. 18

Rigorous Commandeering of paddy

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri);* Mr. President, The cut motion that I have the privilege to move before this House is one that vitally affects the food that we have to consume during the early months of the coming year. This proposition I request you to kindly view with great consideration.

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Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Let us know what is the motion the member should move it formally.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: For the information of the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi I will invite his attention to the motion No. 16 under General Administration which for technical reasons was ordered by the President to be transferred to its appropriate head, namely Miscellaneous and typed and placed before the table of every Hon'ble Member yesterday to be moved after cut motion No. 6 under Miscellaneous is reached and finished.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: I lost that. Any way I have a right to see that it is formally moved.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: With regard to the moving of cuts, Sir, I am not to be directed by the view of the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi or for the matter of that by the views of any Hon'ble Member. I am to be guided by the provisions of the Standing Orders and the rules which I request that every Hon'ble Member of this House may be pleased to be thorough with. I am not bound, Sir, to read out a motion for the hearing of the House. The motion printed is placed on the table of every Hon'ble Member. Therefore, I request the Chair to give me due allowance for this interruption and this reply. Let me come to the subject.

The cut motion that I have the privilege to move is *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,27,821, for Food Supplies by Re. 1 to urge upon the Government that the commandeering of paddy be made more rigorous.* That is the cut motion as printed. Now, Sir, I have a request to make to the Hon'ble President as also to the Hon'ble Members of this House that, I may be allowed to add three words to this cut motion, at the end namely "and more equitable". So the cut would read, "*To urge upon the Covernment that the commandeering of paddy be made more rigorous and more equitable.*

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: On a point of order. There is no provision for amending a cut motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: The chair has the power to allow it. Though not as conversant with parliamentary procedure as my Hon'ble friend I know a bit of it.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: That is all right.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: If you are prepared to pay that compliment all right, do pay. Behave please, in that fashion and implement your views.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural)*: The difficulty is that you do not remember that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Have I the permission of the chair to add these words?

Deputy President: Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Thank you, Sir, therefore for the information of the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudy, I shall read the cut motion. It is *to urge upon the Government that the commandeering of paddy be made more rigorous and more equitable.* I am sorry, this Hon'ble House,—there are exceptions,—does not rise to the seriousness of the cut. I want to place my views before an attentive House a responsible House which will respond to the demands that I propose to make because they are very necessary things. And more than that by the cut I do not want to criticise the Government. In other words, it is a helpful cut. If I do not make myself understood, I am sorry. I wish, Sir, to urge upon the Government that the commandeering of paddy be made more rigorous and more equitable. More rigorous is the first demand that I make. What is the reason? What does it imply? The commandeering process going on in the State is not sufficiently rigorous now. According to me, the commandeering process is not equitable either. Therefore make it more equitable. The wording may look paradoxical. Let me therefore explain my position with the seriousness that this proposition demands. Now, Sir, I regret I will have to take this Hon'ble House through various processes which our good Government had to take in a novel subject like controlling food-stuffs. To begin with, commendeering was started very late. All glory to the Government for having taken up this food question with all the seriousness that the proposition demands. My complaint, Sir, is that the processes that are now in action were resorted to with very good intentions but very late. In other words, commandeering of paddy and other foodstuffs ought to have been taken up earlier than it was actually done. But the cut motion is not too plain on that. The commandeering that was introduced on 6th Dhanu 1118 is to continue till the order is cancelled.

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Therefore the commandeering will continue as far as the first crop of 1119—Virippu crop is concerned. As far as the commandeering of this crop is concerned, it may be made more rigorous and as I submitted before may be made more equitable and begun earlier. Though there are provisions for their working, they are worked not with the sufficiency and equity that the case demands. I think the proposition is clearly put. Let me inform the House what are the latches. When the latches are pointed out, the remedies for the latches will be pointed out. What is meant by equity? When they are pointed out, the process of making them more equitable will necessarily follow. Therefore with this analytical view let me tell this House that the want of rigour with regard to commandeering has affected the prohibition of export of paddy from the land. That has of course no reference to the prohibition of export of paddy. Prohibition is sought to be worked by a few processes like this. Frontier guards have been appointed to check any clandestine of export, any removal across our borders into other lands. My complaint is that that part of the army of the preventive force is not working as it ought to. At the frontiers, Sir, Government have been pleased to appoint frontier guards, ill paid also high paid. When I say that their function is not properly done I mean that all the attempts at export of paddy from the country are not checked and stopped. To put in plainer language, I will submit, Sir, that these officers for the reason of their being what they are connive and allow the things to be taken out of the land. If my statement is accepted, my request to the Government is to adopt the necessary measures to deal with such connivance on the part of our officers, high or low. This is a very workable proposition if only the Government will be pleased to accept the statement that there is connivance. For various reasons, the Government may find it not convenient to admit the statement nor do I seek the admission on the part of Government because as I submitted before, this cut motion is not to criticise the Government but to help the Government, to help the country. Therefore Sir, I leave it there. Search and find out for yourself whether the statement is true. If you find the statement is true, come out with rigour and punish the offender. If necessary, dismiss, if necessary even a prosecution has to be launched. Give the maximum punishment to the offender. This is the way to check corruption, if corruption exists. I use if. If corruption exists, check it. So that it may not be repeated. That is one method of making commandeering more rigorous. In one of the orders passed by the Government—Paddy acquisition order—it is stated as follows.

"In exercise of the powers conferred upon them by rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules as made applicable to Cochin by Proclamation VIII of 1115, and all powers thereto enabling, Government are pleased to order that whoever is entitled to harvest the standing crops on any paddy land in the State, shall at least, seven days before he intends to harvest the crops give information in writing to the Tahsildar of the Taluk within whose jurisdiction such lands are situate, etc.

He shall further comply with all the directions given by the Tahsildar or his deputier regarding the harvest and storage of the paddy." When you come to the working of the latter portion of the order that is, "He shall comply with all the directions given by the Tahsildar of his deputies regarding the harvest of that paddy, it is there that more rigour is to be applied. It is here that commandeering is to be made more rigorous. To be plainer still, it is not possible for a Tahsildar to reach the whole area of his jurisdiction. All the areas lie scattered and the means of locomotion are very few and costly. You cannot therefore reasonably expect a Tahsildar to be everywhere. Necessarily therefore, he has to rely upon his deputy, the first deputy upon the second deputy, the second upon the third, the third upon the fourth and like that down to the village man. If you can without further comment, infer the result it will be helpful. In the lower rungs, it is not difficult to purchase your own paid men. The processes necessary will have to be gone through and the paddy, though not the whole, to a very great extent can be transferred. I think I have made myself sufficiently clear.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Is it the point that the deputies should not be of a particular rank?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkncheri);* That is for the Government to consider. I have stated the lower you go into the rungs of service, human nature being what it is, you cannot expect sufficient integrity. I am not complaining of it. It is a weakness of human nature. Have this process stopped. If a larger and better staff is required by all means ask for it. If that can be done by any other process, accept that but see that the whole that is takeable from the agriculturists is taken. Try to get as much as is equitably possible from the landowner. Therefore my suggestion is to do all things necessary to get all that the cultivator can spare. I do not mean "deprive him of every grain".

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Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Suppose a few members of the Legislative Council are appointed with an honorarium.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* If my Hon'ble friend would stop to accept that as others have done in disgrace let him do so. But I hope that the veteran of the House will not descend to that level. Please don't intervene with such trivial jokes. I am on a serious subject. I am pressing it with the seriousness the question demands in a helpful spirit and you are on trivial things. For which I may have to use the harsh language that Parliamentary procedure will allow and I will insist upon doing it. Please don't disturb. Sir, I was on the question of dealing with the deputies and their deputies and their deputies. Such a process, according to me, does not serve the full purpose of commandeering. Therefore if means can be found by intelligence surely devise means to see that there is no mincing matters with the cultivator. Whatever is takable from him should be taken and let rigorous methods be applied to stop malpractices, if there is any. I am prepared to concede and excuse human nature being what it is. In the lower ranks of service I know they are not paid sufficient to make both ends meet. Men in that stage may descend to levels which otherwise they may not decend to and the cultivator who wants to get as much to himself may purchase this man's integrity, at a low price or even at a high price. Therefore take good care in choosing your officers for collection work If necessary, appoint an army of honest men. There are Hon'ble Members of this House who will do the work with an honorarium as coveted by my Hon'ble friend won't do. They should not descend to that level in which some of their friends find themselves now. Their service to-day is honorary but with an honorarium. Without any honorarium I offer my services, Sir, in this sphere. I shall take 5 villages round about Vadakkancheri. But my words must be respected. If I point out a case of misdealing of the situation by any my word must be accepted. You must be prepared to do that. "Mr. Ezhuthassan is not a man who has any axe to grind. His statement is true and we will act up to it" should be the attitude of the Government. If a man has to be sacked, he will be sacked. If a man has to be prosecuted, he will have to be prosecuted and punished. Consider in that light. Are you prepared to come forward to take us into confidence, to act upon our advice? Voluntary service without any pay or remuneration and no punishment. Hon'ble Members of this House to be appointed with an honorarium and there to be fined Rs. 2,! Disgraceful! I am speaking now about a serious subject which affects the stomach, not of the rich man or of the fat man like me but of the ryot, the hard hit ryot who does not find his way to have one Kanji per day. It is his cause that I advocate through this cut. Therefore please consider. I address the Treasury benches. Devote all your energy. Devote all your intelligence. Enlist an army of honest hands, I repeat. Make them not use illegal means. Let them do the work satisfied with the money that is paid to them from month to month for legitimate work. Thus make commandeering more rigorous. I think the rigorous part of the cut motion can be left there. The object is simple. It is to see that all the takable portion of the agriculturists' yield be taken not leaving one grain out of the takable portion with him, but get it for yourself.

Now, Sir, I come to the second part of my cut motion—make commandeering more equitable. It presumes, Sir, that the present method is not equitable. I feel ashamed, Sir, that the non-official side of this Hon'ble House is very thin. My address however is to the Treasury benches and I find they are all attention. I am sure they will deal with the problem with the seriousness that it demands. What a sight Sir! Has the fifth Legislative Council descended to this level! When the Food problem, when the problem of problems is discussed I see full 4 benches vacant. I see on the bench to my right only my Hon'ble friend, the veteran of this House. Another bench is completely vacant. Many other seats also unoccupied, disgracefull. Apart from that I find the seats in the benches belonging to the party to which I have the honour to belong also vacant. Necessary steps I am sure will be taken, in the proper place in the proper fashion. I will place it before the Deputy Leader for proper action in the proper manner. This is disgraceful.

Now after dealing with the rigorous part of the cut motion and coming to the equitable portion, I want the Government of Cochin to work out the system in the most equitable way by the cultivator. Your order regarding the provision for leaving as much as is necessary for the domestic consumption of the agriculturist till the next harvest is not worked properly and equitably is my complaint. Necessary intelligence is to be used in its working. Then there is the seed that is necessary to be left. There is no difficulty with regard to this. Then there is what is required for cultivation charges. There in comes the trouble. Any agriculturist who properly cultivates his land has to spend for one parah of seed not less than 3 parahs of paddy as

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wages. Although there is the old saying വിത്തോളം വേല i.e., as much wages as seed grain that does not apply to the present times. My point Sir; is that three parahs of paddy for every parah of seed must be left with the cultivator for wages.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Is it for one parah of seed?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Yes, for one parah. Now you may probably ask "is that not too much"? My straight and simple answer is that it is not. That is necessary for proper and effective cultivation of the land I only request you, Sir, kill not the goose that lays the golden egg. Give unto the cultivator all that is necessary for raising the next crop. If you err, err on the side of leniency and not on the side of rigour. I only mention this by way of a suggestion. It is not enough if your orders are good. They must be worked in properly and to the advantage of the cultivator. What is the portion to be left for consumption of the cultivator and for cultivation charges must be made known to all. Otherwise there is scope for mischief of various kinds. It is with inside knowledge, Sir, that I speak of all these difficulties.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* We have given instructions to the grain-purchase Tahsildars both in person and in writing.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Thank you for the instructions. My further request is to see that your instructions are worked out and honoured and if not honoured punish the offenders. The next thing, Sir, is that the prohibition order regarding Tapioca be cancelled. I need not add any thing more to substantiate this point. What has transpired at question time this morning is sufficient to show that that order works hardship and works no good. It works hardship to the agriculturist who grows tapioca. It does not do any good to anybody. Unless the Government are prepared to purchase all the tapioca that is for sale they should permit private purchase and sale. For that it is necessary to cancel the prohibition order.

Again Sir, there is the fish control order. I know from representations made by responsible persons that the fish control order works very great hardship. Fish is a perishable article. You may say it can be dried. But there are processes to be gone through. There is expenditure to be incurred. There is market to be found out. Unless you are prepared to purchase the stock that is collected by the fisherman yourself daily, then and there, remove your order. Allow him to take it where that is wanted. You may say in reply that licenses will be granted, and with license fish could be taken outside Cochin. There are difficulties in getting licenses and the great difficulties of transport are well known. Therefore the most effective way of removing that difficulty will be to remove export prohibition order. These are not things that I place before you by way of complaint. Bestow your best thought upon it. Find out a scheme to help the local man, the producer. Allow him to take it wherever it will fetch a price if that is not wanted here. I am not speaking against conserving all that is wanted here. No one will complain about that. But, then do purchase what is wanted and release the rest. Fish you know perishes if not dried and preserved. But that is not possible for the ordinary fisherman folk.

Deputy President: It is time.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ehuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I shall close, Sir. Therefore my request to the Government in a most helpful spirit is that, though the spirit of the cut motion has already been accepted by them, its practical working may be looked into with the seriousness that the position demands and early orders for making it more rigorous and more equitable in the way suggested by me may be passed. With that hope I place this request before this Hon'ble House on behalf of the poormen of the State.

Deputy President: The House stands adjourned.

The House rose for the day at 5 p.m.

N. S. RADHAKRISHNA SARMA

Secretary to the Council

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